

God's Amazing Book

Journey Through the New Testament

THE RIGHT KIND OF CHURCH

A Quick Look at the First Pastoral Letter to Timothy

These [pastoral] epistles are the only part of the New Testament that deals with church problems from an administrative rather than a theological viewpoint. - W. E. Vine

Timothy was Paul's apprentice, becoming the first Christian leader we see in the Bible, after those who were personal witnesses of Jesus Christ: His death, burial, and resurrection. Timothy was a young minister and faced a lot of challenges from the church and the world around him. Paul sent this letter to him to help him and encourage him. The instructions found in this letter have helped millions throughout church history. Here is a brief outline of what is covered in this great book:

Fast Facts on 1 Timothy

Written by? Apostle Paul

Written to whom? Timothy
(in Ephesus)

Written when? A.D. 64

Written why? To
encourage Timothy, a
young church leader.

Churches Should Have The Right Kind of...

...Teaching (1 Timothy 1:1-20)

Paul wanted Timothy to be sure the right kind of teaching was in his ministry.

This meant that Timothy had to do two things: 1) Get the wrong teaching out (1:1-11); 2) Keep the right doctrine in (1:12-20)

Paul instructed Timothy to preserve the Christian faith by teaching sound doctrine and modeling right living. Timothy had to oppose false teachers who were leading church members away from belief in salvation by faith in Jesus Christ alone. We must know the truth in order to defend it. We must cling to the belief that Christ came to save us. We should stay away from those who twist the words of the Bible for their own purposes.

...Worship (1 Timothy 2:1-15)

Paul wanted Timothy to be sure the right atmosphere was created in public worship services. No worship service should be without these two things: 1) Prayer (2:1-8); 2) Order (2:9-15)

Prayer in public worship must be done with a proper attitude toward God and fellow believers. Christian character must be evident in every aspect of worship. We must rid ourselves of any anger, resentment, or offensive behavior that might disrupt worship or damage church unity.

...Leadership (1 Timothy 3:1-16)

Paul wanted Timothy to know that there are to be standards in the leadership of the Church. Not just anyone should be able to lead God's family. Though every Christian should make these standards their personal goal, these requirements are essential for the main offices of the Church:

- 1) Pastors (3:1-7)
- 2) Deacons (3:8-13)

Paul gives specific instructions concerning the qualifications for church leaders so that the church might honor God and operate smoothly.

Church leaders must be wholly committed to Christ. If you are a new or young Christian, don't be anxious to become a leader in the church. Seek to develop your Christian character first. Be sure to seek God, not your own ambition.

...Discipline (1 Timothy 4:1-16)

Paul wanted Timothy to know that being God's man is much more important than doing God's work. Discipline is essential. The main verse from this passage is 1 Timothy 4:7, which says, "***Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.***" Paul tells Timothy to:

- 1) Stay Sharp against Heresy (4:1-5)
- 2) Stay Disciplined Spiritually (4:6-8)
- 3) Stay Strong when Suffering (4:9-10)
- 4) Stay Close to the Lord Daily (4:11-16)

It takes discipline to be a leader in the church. Timothy, like all pastors, had to guard his motives, minister faithfully, and live above reproach. Any pastor must keep morally and spiritually fit. To stay in good spiritual shape, you must discipline yourself to study God's Word and to obey it. Put your spiritual abilities to work!

...Responsibilities (1 Timothy 5:1-6:2)

Paul wanted Timothy to know that the Church is to be a hospital for sinners, not a hotel for saints. Love must be our number one attribute for us to look most like Christ to a dying world. Paul specifically wanted Timothy to remember the Church's responsibility to look out for: 1) Christians in sin (5:1-2); 2) Widows (5:3-16); 3) Elders (5:17-25); and 4) Slaves (6:1-2).

The church has a responsibility to care for the needs of all its members, especially the sick, the poor, and the widowed. Caring must go beyond good intentions. Caring for the family of believers demonstrates our Christ like attitude and exhibits genuine love to nonbelievers.

...Motivations (1 Timothy 6:3-21)

Paul knew that there would be those who would want to be a church leader for various reasons. Leaders should not be in the Church for what they can get out of it, but what they can give into it. Paul shows why leaders are in the Church:

- 1) Not because they are paid (6:3-10)
- 2) But because they are called (6:11-16)
- 3) And because of the Good News (6:20-21)

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT 1 Timothy

1. No one is ever so far gone that God cannot pour out his grace and mercy on that person (1:12-14).
2. If you want to serve as a spiritual leader, you are going to be held to some pretty high standards (3:13).
3. Even though Timothy was young and shy, Paul sent him on several important missions.
4. Paul wrote this letter near the end of his life.
5. Timothy had a Jewish mother and a Greek father.